



**Energy and Technology Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 7, 2013**

Submitted by Lynn Taborsak, Climate Change Specialist  
concerning

**HB 6360: An Act Concerning Implementation of Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of 1600 members in 27 local chapters and committed to effective public policy and the active participation of citizens in their government. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

The League has consistently supported policies at the state level that reduce energy consumption, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources. We are grateful that the legislature is considering a comprehensive strategy that will help mitigate the impact of climate change in our region. However, a continued emphasis must be placed on efficiency programs and renewable energy to combat global warming.

HB 6360 includes many worthwhile provisions that have made recurring appearances in the committee's bill book. We strongly support benchmarking and disclosure of energy usage in residential, commercial and public buildings. It will help create real competition among property owners and developers to achieve greater energy efficiency in their buildings. We all benefit from that competition with cleaner air, lower greenhouse gas emissions and green job creation in our state since most improvements will be done by in-state firms who hire local workers and purchase materials and supplies within our borders. We support time-of-use pricing for both UI and CL&P customers and sub metering to encourage the installation of renewable energy at multi-tenant commercial and residential buildings.

We also support robust efficiency efforts including equipment replacement and rate decoupling to achieve the maximum reduction in energy usage. However, the plans do not identify a funding mechanism for efficiency programs in homes and businesses that heat with oil or propane. The promotion of natural gas use over other fossil fuels should be tempered by an assessment of the environmental and public health impacts that the gas extraction process is known to cause. It should also be consistent with our long-term climate change goals. Tax incentives to switch fuels should be limited to homes and businesses currently on gas mains and should require efficiency as part of the conversion.

Finally, please support the growth of clean, regionally-produced renewable energy by maintaining the integrity of the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Thank you for your consideration.